GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1026
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2002
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN CHEETHA/CHETAK HELICOPTERS
ARUN KUMAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether majority of Cheetha/Chetak helicopter fleet was operating without secure communication system;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of accidents which could not be avoided due to the said reasons;

(d) whether 45 communication system sets were procured at a cost of Rs. 7.15 crore during November 1997 for fitting in the helicopters, but a lot of them have not been installed even though their warranty period is over;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide communication facilities immediately in these helicopters?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (f): These helicopters do have communication facilities. The communication sets procured for fitment on Cheetah helicopters are for long-range communication. While some of these sets have been installed, the rest are in the process of installation. The delay of fitment has taken place due to continuous involvement of these helicopters in operations/logistic tasks. Accidents have no direct relationship with secure/insecure communications.